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EXAMINER

TAN, ALVIN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/649,307

Applicant(s)

HONDA ET AL.

Examiner

Alvin H. Tan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-14 and 16-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-14, 16-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed under 37 CFR §1.53(d) for the instant application on 6/27/06. Applicants have properly set forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application, and an examination on the merits follows herewith.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-22 have been examined and rejected. This Office action is responsive to the amendment filed on 5/12/05, which has been entered in the above identified application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-6, 8-14, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the same job" in *[line 3]* of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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- b. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the policy command action" in *[line 20]* of the claim. It is unclear as to which one of the policy command actions *[line 3 or line 18]* is being referred to.
- c. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the same job" in *[lines 2-3]* of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- d. Claim 12 recites the limitation "the same job" in *[line 3]* of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- e. Claim 13 recites the limitation "the same job" in *[line 3]* of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- f. Claim 14 recites the limitation "the same job" in *[line 4]* of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5, 8-14, and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al (Pub. No US 2001/0039594 A1).

Claims 1-5, 8, 9 (Method)

Claims 10, 11, 21 (System)

Claims 12, 22 (Computer Readable Storage Product comprising code for)

Claim 14 (Computer Readable Storage Product comprising means for)

6-1. Regarding claims 1, 10, 12, and 14 Park teaches the claim of a job management method for an information processing system that includes a plurality of information processing devices that execute a policy command action concerning a same job, by disclosing a method for enforcing workflow processes for website development and maintenance *[paragraph 10, lines 1-2]*. Upon completion of a task, approval of the work performed may be required by one or more entities before further work is done to the resulting file or files *[paragraph 12, lines 1-3, 9-14]*. Thus, users on multiple devices may execute a policy command action to approve or disapprove a specific job.

Park teaches the job management method comprising storing a stencil for a job definition statement, by disclosing a template script contained within a workflow template file *[paragraph 56, lines 5-7]* along with workflow markup that sets the workflow rules *[paragraph 44, lines 1-3]* used to create a job specification file *[paragraph 41, lines 4-7]*. Park teaches data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup, by disclosing that a job may be created through end-user input from a browser interface *[paragraph 41, lines 4-7]*. Park teaches wherein the data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup is used to produce a user interface for generating a job definition statement, by disclosing that the browser creates one or more workflow forms *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*, which are created based on information in a workflow

template file *[paragraph 49, lines 2-5]*. Data is entered by users based on the rules in the workflow template file and configuration instructions to create a job specification *[paragraph 49, lines 5-11]*. Thus, the workflow template file contains data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup.

Park teaches generating data for executing a process for generating a job definition statement based on contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup and generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data, by disclosing a technique for creating a job that automatically generates separate job specification files for each distinct set of user inputs *[paragraph 41, lines 15-18]* by using a workflow template file (containing a template script and workflow markup) along with user input *[paragraph 41, lines 4-7]*.

Park teaches that the stencil and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup are stored in the computer-readable storage medium, by disclosing that a development server includes a conventional memory and a conventional processor which implements the website development methods of the present invention by executing software stored in memory *[paragraph 21, lines 1-5]*. Thus, the workflow template files, scripts, and forms are stored in memory, prior for generating data for executing the process.

Park teaches that a template script can insert text into a job specification programmatically *[paragraph 59, lines 6-7]* using the Perl programming language *[paragraph 58, line 2]*.

Park teaches the stencil for the job definition statement defines an environment variable commonly referenced by all policy command actions that are written as a lower-level elements for a root policy rule, by disclosing that the template script elements that make up the workflow template file contains code that can define rules that validate user-entered data, define custom error messages to be displayed when data validation rules are not satisfied, and inspect incoming data and execute coded rules based on this data (for example, when an author's name is "Andre" three approvers may be required, whereas, when the author's name is "Jon" only one approver is required) *[paragraph 58]*. In order to determine the number of approvers, there inherently needs to be an environmental variable that is commonly used by each policy action involving whether or not a reviewer has approved or disapproved the job.

Park teaches wherein the policy command action is capable of setting an initial value for a global environment variable because Perl is capable of assigning initial values for both local and global variables.

Park does not expressly disclose the stencil for the job definition statement contains, in accordance with a user selection made via the user interface, a definition statement for invalidating a specific description written in the stencil. However, examiner takes Official Notice that the Perl programming language contains conditional statements, which can be used to invalidate a specific description or portion of text.

Since the template script defines the workflow markups *[paragraph 56, lines 6-7]* used to create workflow forms into which a user enters workflow configuration information via a browser *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a definition statement for invalidating a specific description in the stencil by using the conditional statements provided by the Perl programming language in order to allow the user to have better control of text inserted into the job specification programmatically, since examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known that the Perl programming language contains conditional statements. The invention of Park relates to control and administration of workflow processes utilized for website development and maintenance. The workflow model is an arrangement of tasks to be performed *[paragraph 31]*. As disclosed in *[paragraph 58]*, Perl code may be used to inspect incoming data and execute coded rules based on this data. Thus, enforcing regulations with conditional statements to control the workflow based on user input would be beneficial.

Park does not expressly teach the environment variable being a global variable, rather than a local variable, that is referenced by all policy command actions that are written as lower-level elements for a root policy rule. However, Examiner takes Official Notice that global variables are well known in Perl and are used to avoid having to pass frequently-used variables continuously throughout several functions. Since Park teaches that if a workflow template file contains more than one `template_script` element, all variables, functions, and libraries set in one element are preferably available in

others *[paragraph 57]*, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to include the use of global variables among the elements, since Examiner takes Official Notice that global variables are well known in Perl and are used to avoid having to pass frequently-used variables continuously throughout several functions.

6-2. Regarding claim 2, Park teaches the claim of the method wherein the stencil for the job definition statement is written in XML format, by disclosing that the workflow template file containing the workflow markup and template script elements used to define the workflow markups is an XML file *[paragraph 41, lines 2-3]*.

6-3. Regarding claim 3, Park teaches the claim of the method wherein the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement is written in XML format and positioned in a file in which the stencil for the job definition statement is written, by disclosing that a job may be created through a combination of workflow rules defined in a workflow template file (e.g., an XML file) and end-user input from the browser interface. The workflow rules of the template and user input may be interpreted by a common gateway interface to dynamically create a job specification file *[paragraph 41, lines 4-13]*. Based on the workflow markup, the instantiator CGI creates one or more workflow forms into which a user can enter workflow configuration information via the browser *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*. The template script and workflow markup that make up the stencil are contained within the workflow template file *[paragraph 56, lines 5-7]*.

6-4. Regarding claim 4, Park teaches the claim of the method wherein the user interface is capable of opening a window, which is organized to prompt a user for setup, in order to prompt the user to set the job definition statement, by teaching a browser interface GUI that lets a user select a workflow template, such as from a menu item *[paragraph 50, lines 1-3]*.

6-5. Regarding claim 5, Park teaches the claim of the method wherein the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement contains control data for specifying whether the window should display user-definable options, by disclosing that a workflow template file can contain <template_script> elements, including a set of directives to define the workflow markups *[paragraph 56, lines 5-7]*. The template scripts may modify the workflow forms, onto which a user can enter configuration information to create a job specification *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*.

6-6. Regarding claims 8, 21, and 22, Park teaches that the template script can insert text into a job specification programmatically *[paragraph 59, lines 6-7]* using the Perl programming language *[paragraph 58, line 2]*.

Park does not expressly disclose the stencil for the job definition statement contains, in accordance with a user selection made via the user interface, a definition statement issuing an instruction for generating a job definition statement in which a specific description written in the stencil is repeatedly written.

However, examiner takes Official Notice that the Perl programming language contains loop statements, which can be used to repeatedly write a specific description or portion of text.

Since the template script defines the workflow markups *[paragraph 56, lines 6-7]* used to create workflow forms into which a user enters workflow configuration information via a browser *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a definition statement for invalidating a specific description in the stencil by using the loop statements provided by the Perl programming language in order to allow the user to have better control of text inserted into the job specification programmatically, since examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known that the Perl programming language contains loop statements. The invention of Park relates to control and administration of workflow processes utilized for website development and maintenance. The workflow model is an arrangement of tasks to be performed *[paragraph 31]*. Thus, a loop statement would be a more efficient way of repeatedly writing a specific description in the stencil.

6-7. Regarding claim 9, Park teaches the claim of the method wherein the job definition statement contains a definition statement for setting a job network that executes a stream of a plurality of jobs, by disclosing a <submittask> element that may perform a submit operation (to a staging area) on its contained files. If successful,

specified successor tasks may be signaled *[paragraph 37, lines 14-16]*. Thus, a plurality of jobs would be executed after the current task is completed.

6-8. Regarding claim 11, Park teaches the claim of the system further comprising means for importing or exporting the stencil for the job definition statement that is managed as data in file form, by disclosing that a job may be created through a combination of workflow rules defined in a workflow template file (e.g., an XML file) and end-user input from the browser interface. The workflow rules of the template and user input may be interpreted by a common gateway interface to dynamically create a job specification file. Once configured, this technique simplifies the process of defining jobs since it provides a browser interface for user input and automatically generates separate job specification files for each distinct set of user inputs *[paragraph 41, lines 4-18]*.

Claim 13

6-9. Regarding claim 13, Park teaches a computer readable storage medium having a program comprising code for generating a job definition statement based on contents set by a user via a user interface in accordance with a stencil for the job definition statement and data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup, by disclosing a technique for creating a job that automatically generates separate job specification files for each distinct set of user inputs *[paragraph 41, lines 15-18]* by using

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a workflow template file (containing a template script) along with user input *[paragraph 41, lines 4-7]*.

Park teaches data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup, by disclosing that a job may be created through end-user input from a browser interface *[paragraph 41, lines 4-7]*.

Park teaches that the stencil and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup are stored in a computer-readable storage medium, by disclosing that a development server includes a conventional memory and a conventional processor which implements the website development methods of the present invention by executing software stored in memory *[paragraph 21, lines 1-5]*. Thus, the workflow template files, scripts, and forms are stored in memory, prior for generating data for executing the process.

Park teaches wherein the data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup is used to produce a user interface for generating a job definition statement, by disclosing that the browser creates one or more workflow forms *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*, which are created based on information in a workflow template file *[paragraph 49, lines 2-5]*. Data is entered by users based on the rules in the workflow template file and configuration instructions to create a job specification *[paragraph 49, lines 5-11]*. Thus, the workflow template file contains data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup.

Park teaches that a template script can insert text into a job specification programmatically *[paragraph 59, lines 6-7]* using the Perl programming language *[paragraph 58, line 2]*.

Park does not expressly disclose the stencil for the job definition statement contains, in accordance with a user selection made via the user interface, a definition statement for invalidating a specific description written in the stencil.

However, examiner takes Official Notice that the Perl programming language contains conditional statements, which can be used to invalidate a specific description or portion of text.

Since the template script defines the workflow markups *[paragraph 56, lines 6-7]* used to create workflow forms into which a user enters workflow configuration information via a browser *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a definition statement for invalidating a specific description in the stencil by using the conditional statements provided by the Perl programming language in order to allow the user to have better control of text inserted into the job specification programmatically, since examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known that the Perl programming language contains conditional statements. The invention of Park relates to control and administration of workflow processes utilized for website development and maintenance. The workflow model is an arrangement of tasks to be performed *[paragraph 31]*. As disclosed in *[paragraph 58]*, Perl code may be used to inspect incoming data and execute coded rules based on this data. Thus, enforcing regulations

with conditional statements to control the workflow based on user input would be beneficial.

Park teaches a plurality of information processing devices that execute a policy command action concerning the same job, by disclosing that a job may need to be reviewed and approved by a certain number of users [*paragraph 12, lines 9-14*]. Thus, users on multiple devices may execute a policy command action to approve or disapprove a specific job.

Park teaches the stencil for the job definition statement defines an environment variable commonly referenced by all policy command actions that are written as a lower-level elements for a root policy rule, by disclosing that the template script elements that make up the workflow template file contains code that can define rules that validate user-entered data, define custom error messages to be displayed when data validation rules are not satisfied, and inspect incoming data and execute coded rules based on this data (for example, when an author's name is "Andre" three approvers may be required, whereas, when the author's name is "Jon" only one approver is required) [*paragraph 58*]. In order to determine the number of approvers, there inherently needs to be an environmental variable that is commonly used by all policy actions involving whether or not a reviewer has approved or disapproved a job.

Park does not expressly teach the environment variable being a global variable. However, Examiner takes Official Notice that global variables are well known in Perl and are used to avoid having to pass frequently-used variables continuously throughout several functions. Since Park teaches that if a workflow template file contains more than

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one `template_script` element, all variables, functions, and libraries set in one element are preferably available in others *[paragraph 57]*, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to include the use of global variables among the elements, since Examiner takes Official Notice that global variables are well known in Perl and are used to avoid having to pass frequently-used variables continuously throughout several functions.

Park teaches wherein the policy command action is capable of setting an initial value for the global environment variable because Perl is capable of assigning an initial value for global variables.

Claims 16-20

6-10. Regarding claim 16, Park teaches a storage system which includes a storage device *[figure 1, reference character 112]* for storing data for use in an operation server and a management server *[figure 1, reference character 104]* for managing the operation of the storage device, defining a job targeted for execution as a policy rule, and executing a process in compliance with the policy rule (server “104” implements the methods of the invention disclosed by Park *[paragraph 21, lines 1-4]*), the storage system comprising a storage section configured to store information about data concerning the policy rule and data prescribing a user interface for setting the policy rule, by disclosing that a job specification file may describe a single job and may be stored in the memory 112 *[paragraph 34, lines 5-7]*.

Park teaches a policy wizard GUI (browser interface used to create a job specification file *[paragraph 50, lines 1-3]*) which is configured to read the element attribute information about a policy rule from the storage section, process an element of a wizard page defining a guidance window for policy setup, and generate a wizard window, by disclosing that based upon the workflow markup, the instantiator CGI creates one or more workflow forms into which a user can enter workflow configuration information via the browser *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*. The workflow forms are created based on information in a workflow template file *[paragraph 49, lines 2-5]*. Data is entered by users based on the rules in the workflow template file and configuration instructions to create a job specification *[paragraph 49, lines 5-11]*. Thus, the workflow template file contains data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup.

Park teaches the policy wizard GUI configured to enter policy rule setup information via the user interface in compliance with an instruction displayed by the generated window, by disclosing that the user enters workflow configuration information via the browser *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*, which is verified and if the input does not meet all necessary criteria, the interface re-prompts the user so that data can be re-entered *[paragraph 53, lines 1-7]*, the configuration information used to create a job specification file *[paragraph 54, lines 1-5]*.

Park teaches the policy wizard GUI configured to generate a policy rule in accordance with the information entered via the user interface, by disclosing that the browser interface is used to create a job specification file *[paragraph 54, lines 1-5]*.

Park teaches that a template script can insert text into a job specification programmatically *[paragraph 59, lines 6-7]* using the Perl programming language *[paragraph 58, line 2]*.

Park does not expressly disclose the stencil for the job definition statement contains, in accordance with a user selection made via the user interface, a definition statement for invalidating a specific description written in the stencil.

However, examiner takes Official Notice that the Perl programming language contains conditional statements, which can be used to invalidate a specific description or portion of text.

Since the template script defines the workflow markups *[paragraph 56, lines 6-7]* used to create workflow forms into which a user enters workflow configuration information via a browser *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a definition statement for invalidating a specific description in the stencil by using the conditional statements provided by the Perl programming language in order to allow the user to have better control of text inserted into the job specification programmatically, since examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known that the Perl programming language contains conditional statements. The invention of Park relates to control and administration of workflow processes utilized for website development and maintenance. The workflow model is an arrangement of tasks to be performed *[paragraph 31]*. As disclosed in *[paragraph 58]*, Perl code may be used to inspect incoming data and execute coded rules based on this data. Thus, enforcing regulations

with conditional statements to control the workflow based on user input would be beneficial.

Park teaches a plurality of information processing devices that execute a policy command action concerning a same job, by disclosing that a job may need to be reviewed and approved by a certain number of users *[paragraph 12, lines 9-14]*. Thus, users on multiple devices may execute a policy command action to approve or disapprove a specific job.

Park teaches the stencil for the job definition statement defines an environment variable commonly referenced by all policy command actions that are written as a lower-level elements for a root policy rule, by disclosing that the template script elements that make up the workflow template file contains code that can define rules that validate user-entered data, define custom error messages to be displayed when data validation rules are not satisfied, and inspect incoming data and execute coded rules based on this data (for example, when an author's name is "Andre" three approvers may be required, whereas, when the author's name is "Jon" only one approver is required) *[paragraph 58]*. In order to determine the number of approvers, there inherently needs to be an environmental variable that is commonly used by each policy action involving whether or not a reviewer has approved or disapproved a job.

Park does not expressly teach the environment variable being a global variable. However, Examiner takes Official Notice that global variables are well known in Perl and are used to avoid having to pass frequently-used variables continuously throughout several functions. Since Park teaches that if a workflow template file contains more than

one `template_script` element, all variables, functions, and libraries set in one element are preferably available in others *[paragraph 57]*, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to include the use of global variables among the elements, since Examiner takes Official Notice that global variables are well known in Perl and are used to avoid having to pass frequently-used variables continuously throughout several functions.

Park teaches wherein the policy command action is capable of setting an initial value for the global environment variable because Perl is capable of assigning an initial value for global variables.

6-11. Regarding claim 17, Park teaches the claim of the system wherein the policy rule set via the user interface is stored in XML format in the storage section, by disclosing that the job specification file is in XML format *[paragraph 41, lines 2-3]*.

6-12. Regarding claim 18, Park teaches the claim of the system wherein a policy template, defining data for executing a policy rule generation process in accordance with contents set by a user via the user interface, contains information about a policy guidance window serving as the user interface and information about a generated policy definition XML file, by disclosing a workflow template file contains any or all of the elements that are valid in a job specification file. These elements form the set of general workflow configuration instructions that are used when the user inputs configuration information via the browser *[paragraph 56, lines 1-5]*.

6-13. Regarding claim 19, Park teaches the claim of the system wherein the policy rule generated by the policy wizard GUI is delivered to a policy execution engine and registered, by disclosing that once a job specification is created, it is instantiated into the server and started in the server-side workflow subsystem *[paragraph 54, lines 8-10]*.

6-14. Regarding claim 20, Park teaches the claim of the system wherein the storage section stores beforehand information about instances of data concerning the policy rule and information about instances of data prescribing a user interface for setting the policy rule, by disclosing that a user may select a workflow template for defining a job *[paragraph 50, lines 1-3]*.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al (Pub No US 2001/0039594 A1) and Internet Explorer, as taught by McFedries (1997).

Claim 6

7-1. Regarding claim 6, Park teaches the invention substantially as claimed. See sections 6-1 and 6-4. Park teaches that based on the workflow markup, the instantiator CGI creates one or more workflow forms into which a user can enter workflow configuration information via the browser *[paragraph 52, lines 1-4]*. The workflow markup is written in XML *[paragraph 41, lines 5-6]*.

Park does not expressly disclose the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement contains control data for specifying whether or not to display a window that can open subsequently to a preceding window depending on a user response to the preceding window.

McFedries teaches that Internet Explorer is capable of opening a link in a new window [page 356]. Since Park teaches that the user interface includes using a browser window, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Internet Explorer as the browser, since it is widely available to many users. Thus, the browser window would contain control data for specifying whether or not to display a window that can open subsequently to a preceding window depending on a user response to the preceding window.

Response to Arguments

8. The Examiner acknowledges the Applicants' amendments to claims 1, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16. Regarding independent claims 1, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16, the Applicants allege that Park et al (Pub No US 2001/0039594) as described in the previous Office action, does not teach "the information processing system includes a plurality of information devices that execute a policy command action concerning the same job", as has been amended in the claims. In contrast to the Applicant, Park teaches that upon completion of a task, approval of the work performed may be required by one or more entities before further work is done to the resulting file or files [paragraph 12, lines 1-3,

9-14]. Thus, a completed task may be passed to users on multiple development stations that may execute a policy command action to approve or disapprove a specific job.

Applicants allege that Park, as described in the previous Office action, does not teach “the stencil for the job definition statement defines a global environment variable commonly referenced by all policy command actions that are written as lower-level elements for a root policy rule”, as has been amended in the claims. In contrast to the Applicant, Park teaches that the template script elements that make up the workflow template file contains code that can define rules that validate user-entered data, define custom error messages to be displayed when data validation rules are not satisfied, and inspect incoming data and execute coded rules based on this data (for example, when an author’s name is “Andre” three approvers may be required, whereas, when the author’s name is “Jon” only one approver is required) [paragraph 58]. In order to determine the number of approvers, there inherently needs to be an environmental variable that is commonly used by each policy command action written for each template script element that make up the workflow template file. The variable would be used to determine if the correct number of reviewers approved the job. Park does not expressly teach the environment variable being a global variable, rather than a local variable, that is referenced by all policy command actions that are written as lower-level elements for a root policy rule. However, Examiner takes Official Notice that global variables are well known in Perl and are used to avoid having to pass frequently-used variables continuously throughout several functions. Since Park teaches that if a workflow template file contains more than one template script element, all variables,

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functions, and libraries set in one element are preferably available in others [paragraph 57], it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to include the use of global variables among the elements, since Examiner takes Official Notice that global variables are well known in Perl and are used to avoid having to pass frequently-used variables continuously throughout several functions.

Applicants allege that Park, as described in the previous Office action, does not teach “each policy command action is capable of setting an initial value for the global environment variable”, as has been amended to the claims. In contrast to the Applicant, Park teaches that a template script can insert text into a job specification programmatically [paragraph 59, lines 6-7] using the Perl programming language [paragraph 58, line 2]. Perl is capable of assigning initial values for global variables and thus, Park teaches the limitation as claimed.

Applicants state that dependent claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, and 17-22, recite all the limitations of the independent claims, and thus, are allowable in view of the remarks set forth regarding independently amended claims 1, 10, 12, and 16. However, as discussed above, Park is considered to teach claims 1, 10, 12, and 16, and consequently, claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, and 17-22 are rejected.

The Applicants' arguments have thus been considered, but are not persuasive.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin H. Tan whose telephone number is 571-272-8595. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:30-7 and alternating Fridays 9:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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